



DSS WEATHERIZATION PLAN AND THE ROLE OF THE JOBS FUNNEL

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Monday, May 4th

Hearing w/representation from the Appropriations, Energy and Technology, and Human Services Committees

1:00 – 3:00 PM

LOB, Room 2C

- JOB CREATION FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT ALSO KNOWN AS THE "STIMULUS".
- THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROVIDES CONNECTICUT WITH \$64.3 MILLION IN ONE TIME FUNDING COMPARED TO THE ANNUAL CURRENT FEDERAL ALLOCATION OF \$2.2 MILLION.
- BECAUSE OF THIS SIGNIFIGANT FUNDING INCREASE, CHANGES TO A NATIONAL LONGER TERM POLICY FOCUSSING MORE ON LESSENING THE RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUELS AND DEVELOPMENT OF RELATED "GREEN TECHNOLOGIES", NEW LONGER TERM JOB CREATION OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE DEVELOPED, ESPECAILLY UNDER THE PRESENT RESIDENTIAL WEATHRIZATION PROGRAM FOR AND EVENTUALLY FOR COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC SECTOR BUILDINGS IN THE FUTURE .
- IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE JOB CREATION, ESPECAILLY FOR MANY CURRENTLY LOW SKILLED PERSONS, ADEQUATE AND ACCESSIBLE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ARE ESSENTIAL.
- THE STATE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS EXISTING EDUCATION AND TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE IF IT IS GOING TO PROPERLY TRAIN NEW WORKERS QUICKLY, AS REQUIRED BY THE "STIMULUS".
- FOR THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, THE STATE ALREADY HAS EXISTING JOBS FUNNEL PROGRAMS THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED THOUSANDS OF CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS NOW IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

- THE JOBS FUNNEL, FORMERLY THE HARTFORD CONSTRUCTION JOBS INITIATIVE, IS ONE PROGRAM IDEALLY POSITIONED TO PROVIDE THE PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRAINING NEEDED TO GET MANY WORKERS IN NORTH CENTRAL CONECTICUT, NOT JUST SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED TO PERFORM WEATHERIZATION WORK, BUT TO PROVIDE SKILLS THAT WILL KEEP THESE INDIVIDUALS ON A POSITIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT PATH AND PROVIDE MANY FAMILIES A MEANS TOWARDS FINANCIAL SELF-SUIFFICIENTCY.
- THE JOBS FUNNEL HAS SUCCESSFULLY WORKED WITH ALMOST TWO THOUSAND MEMBERS OF CHALLENGED WORKFORCE POPULATIONS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, SEGMENTS OF THE WORKFORCE THAT WILL NOW BE VIEWED AS AN IMPORTANT TALENT RESOURCE IN THE FUTURE BECAUSE OF CONNECTICUTS EVOLVING DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES.
- THE PROGRAM HAS ALSO FORGED KEY PARTNERSHIPS WITH ORGANIZED LABOR, CONTRACTORS INCLUDING MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED, UTILITIES SUCH AS CT LIGHT AND POWER TO NAME A FEW.
- CAPITAL WORKFORCE PARTNERS HAS ALSO DEVELOPED SUCCESSFUL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS SUCH AS THE CT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, CT OFFICE FOR WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS, COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM AND MANY LOCAL SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE CAREER PATHS AND CAREER COMPETIENCIES.
- A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION WAS JUST COMPLETED AND THE ORGANIZATION CAME OUT WITH AN EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD.
- FOR THESE REASONS CAPITAL WORKFORCE PARTNERS SUPPORTS THE JOB CREATION AND TRAINING COMPONENTS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED CT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES WEATHER IZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PLAN TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$ 3.5 MILLION TOWARDS TRAINING IN THE CREATION OF NEW JOBS.
- FURTHER, CAPITAL WORKFORCE PARTNERS STRONGLY SUPPORTS MAINTAINING THE \$ 2 MILLION FY09 FUNDING LEVEL IN EACH OF FY 10 AND 11 FOR ALL THE STATES JOBS FUNNEL PROGRAMS THAT WILL ALLOW FOR MORE RESIDENTS TO BE TRAINED FOR JOBS CREATED BY THE "STIMULUS" FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND EMERGING "GREEN COLLAR JOBS".

THANK YOU.